

# Ghana Priorities Eminent Panel Findings

Accra – 10 August 2020

Given the range of challenges facing Ghana, what should be the top priorities for policy-makers, civil society, donors and businesses? With limited resources and time, it is crucial that focus is informed by what will do the most good for each cedi spent.

Ghana Priorities is a partnership between the National Development Planning Commission (NDPC) and Copenhagen Consensus to conduct cost-benefit research and prioritization across a comprehensive agenda of responses to challenges. The prioritization is being undertaken and guided by an Eminent Panel of economists.

## Eminent Panel

The Ghana Priorities Eminent Panel comprises:

- Mr Ken Ofori-Atta
- Prof. George Gyan-Baffour
- Prof. Kwesi Botchwey
- Prof. Sister Euginia Amporfu
- Prof. Augustin Fosu
- Prof. Ernest Aryeetey
- Prof. Finn E. Kydland

## Eminent Panel approach

The Eminent Panel sought to address the research proposals with a view to answering the question: *On which initiatives should additional resources be spent first?*

The Eminent Panel intends these findings to be informative not just to the Government of Ghana, but also to others, including NGOs and charitable organizations.

The panel examined the proposals in detail. Each proposal was discussed with its principal author. The panel was informed by Sector Expert Commentaries, and by Panel members' own critical appraisals and discussions on assumptions and methodology.

Prof. Samuel Kobina Annim, Government Statistician was the moderator of the Eminent Panel Conference, a three-day conference with the attendance of all panel members, except Prof. Kydland who participated virtually, hearing and discussing the evidence with all 28 teams of economists.

In ordering the proposals, the Eminent Panel was guided predominantly by consideration of social, economic and environmental costs and benefits.

The Eminent Panel acknowledged the difficulties that cost-benefit analysis must overcome, both in principle and as a practical matter, but agreed that the cost-benefit approach was a very important organizing method.

Each Eminent Panel member assigned his own ranking to proposals. The Eminent Panel's ranking was calculated by taking the median of individual rankings.

The Eminent Panel jointly endorses the median ordering as representing their agreed view. In due course, the Eminent Panel's individual commentaries shall be published in book form.

### Biographies of the Eminent Panel Members

#### Mr. Ken Ofori-Atta

is a Ghanaian economist and an investment banker and co-founder of Databank in Ghana. He currently serves as Minister for Finance. He was appointed by President Nana Akufo-Addo on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2017 and assumed office on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2017.

#### Prof. George Gyan-Baffour

is a Ghanaian development economist and politician. He is the incumbent Member of Parliament for the Wenchi constituency since 2005. He was a professor at Howard University in Washington, D.C., from 1993 to 2001. He is a member of the New Patriotic Party and the current Minister of Planning in Ghana.

#### Prof. Kwesi Botchwey

is currently the Executive Chairman of the African Development Policy Ownership Initiative and Professor of Practice in Development Economics at The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy of Tufts University. Prof. Botchwey was Ghana's Minister for Finance from 1982 to 1995.

He received his secondary school education at the Presbyterian Boys' Senior High School in Ghana. Botchwey holds an LL.B. from the University of Ghana, a LL.M from Yale Law School, and a doctorate from the University of Michigan Law School. He taught at the University of Zambia, the University of Dar es Salaam (Tanzania), and the University of Ghana.

#### Prof. Sister Euginia Amporfu

is an Associate Professor in the Department of Economics at Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST). She holds a PhD in Economics from Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, Canada, and she serves as an External Director on the Governing Board of the Bank of Ghana. She is a member of the Fiscal Council Ghana.

#### Prof. Augustin Fosu

is Professor, Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research (ISSER), University of Ghana. He also holds a number of (honorary) appointments, including: Extraordinary Professor, Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences, University of Pretoria, South Africa; BWPI Research Associate, University of Manchester, UK; and CSAE Research Associate, University of Oxford, UK. His previous positions include: Deputy Director, UN University-WIDER, Finland (2006-2013); Senior Policy Advisor/Chief Economist, UN Economic Commission for Africa, Ethiopia (2004-2006); and Director of Research, African Economic Research Consortium, Kenya (1998-2004). He holds a PhD in economics from Northwestern University, USA. He has published widely, with certain rankings listing him among 'top economists/authors' in Africa and globally. He is a member of the Fiscal Council Ghana.

**Prof. Ernest Aryeetey**

is the Secretary-General of the African Research Universities Alliance (ARUA) and a former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ghana.

Prior to his appointment as Vice-Chancellor, he was a Senior Fellow and Director of the Africa Growth Initiative at the Brookings Institution, Washington, D.C. He was also Director of the Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research (ISSER) of the University of Ghana, Legon for the period February 2003 – January 2010.

**Prof. Finn E. Kydland**

is a Norwegian economist known for his contributions to business cycle theory. He is the Henley Professor of Economics at the University of California, Santa Barbara. He also holds the Richard P. Simmons Distinguished Professorship at the Tepper School of Business at Carnegie Mellon University, where he earned his Ph.D., and a part-time position at the Norwegian School of Economics (NHH). Kydland was a co-recipient of the 2004 Nobel Memorial Prize in Economics, with Edward C. Prescott, "for their contributions to dynamic macroeconomics: the time consistency of economic policy and the driving forces behind business cycles."

**Ranking of Proposals**

The Eminent Panel considers and prioritizes specific proposals to respond to challenges. This is different from ranking the challenges themselves. A low ranking of a proposal does not mean that the problem it addresses should be considered unimportant. In setting priorities, the Eminent Panel has taken into account the strengths and weaknesses of the specific cost-benefit appraisals under review, and has given weight both to the institutional preconditions for success and to the demands of ethical or humanitarian importance.

In ordering the proposals, the Eminent Panel was guided predominantly by consideration of social, economic and environmental costs and benefits. The Eminent Panel acknowledged the difficulties that cost-benefit analysis must overcome, both in principle and as a practical matter, but agreed that the cost-benefit approach was a very important organizing method.

Each Eminent Panel member assigned his/her own ranking to proposals. The Eminent Panel's ranking was calculated by taking the median of individual rankings.

The Eminent Panel jointly endorses the median ordering as representing their agreed view. In due course, the Eminent Panel's individual commentaries shall be published in book form.

Based on the costs and benefits of the solutions and their own assessment, the panel ranked the proposals, in descending order of desirability, as follows:

Rank	Proposal	BCR*
1	Digitized property and business fees	9
2	Universal malaria testing and health facility treatment	133
3	Strengthen community health system (GEHIP)	38
4	Land titling program	91
5	TB patient education for adherence	190
6	Logistics for faster and more accurate TB testing	166

Rank	Proposal	BCR*
7	Active TB case finding in high risk groups	38
8	Ambulance maintenance in rural areas	21
9	Preventive malaria medicine for children in Guinea Savannah	14
10	Complementary feeding promotion	36
11	Breastfeeding promotion	24
12	Micronutrients and calcium in pregnancy	18
12	Management training for medium sized firms	10
14	Incentive schemes for health workers in remote areas	21
15	Health worker home visits for pregnant and newborn	28
15	Doubled R&D spending	1.5
17	Build warehouses to reduce post-harvest losses	1.8
17	Vocational education	1.3
19	Revamp irrigation schemes	1.5
20	Increase mechanization through tractor services	2.8
21	Extend fertilizer subsidies	4.4
22	Hybrid maize seed subsidies	3.6
23	Enforcement by-laws and latrine subsidies in urban areas	4.2
23	OPV maize seed subsidies	2.3
25	Organize all 1-3 graders according to learning level	8
25	Depression screening and treatment	7
27	Apprenticeships	2.4
28	Community dialogues on schooling & early marriage	3.8
29	Support weaker 1-3 graders with teaching assistants	6
30	Raise and sustain coverage of malaria bed nets	44
31	Monitoring devices on trawl ships	21
32	Expand school feeding	4.8
33	Management consultants for large manufacturers	6
34	Emergency obstetric and neonatal care (EmONC)	6
34	Electricity grid for less remote communities	4.5
36	Family planning for married women	34
36	Capital grants for micro enterprises	7
36	Biogas to energy plants	4.7
39	Anxiety disorders screening and treatment	4.6
40	Replacement of illegal gears	5
41	Improved cookstoves promotion to reduce urban air pollution	8
42	Credit reference bureau	12
42	Subsidize urban toilet constructions	5
42	Expanded rural LPG distribution for cooking	2.1
45	Conditional asset transfer for girls enrolled in school	2.7
46	Revamp rail network for rural transport	1.5
46	Solar microgrids for more remote communities	1.7

Rank	Proposal	BCR*
48	Feeder roads for rural transport	1.2
49	Family planning for unmarried women	29
50	Electricity grid for more remote communities	1.1
51	Poverty graduation	1.8
52	Sludge to energy plants	5
52	Mass screening and treatment of hypertension	3.3
52	Comprehensive faecal sludge treatment plants	2.9
55	Improved cookstoves promotion to reduce rural air pollution	9
55	Stabilization ponds for remote areas	4.4
55	Compulsory SRH education for high school boys and girls	2.2
55	Fishing Licenses and Aquaculture	1.2
59	Subsidize private senior high schools to increase seats	1.5
60	Eliminate NHIS premiums for the poor	2.1
60	Increased cash transfers (LEAP)	1.6
62	Diesel microgrids for more remote communities	1.8
63	Reduced LPG tax for cooking	1.9
64	Reduced industrial electricity tariff	1.9
65	Storm drain widening	1.8
66	Rural community led total sanitation with latrine subsidies	1.7
67	Rural community led total sanitation	1.3
68	Formalize mining co-operatives	1.2
69	Increased microfinance	1.6
70	Free school uniforms for girls	2.9
71	Urban bus rapid transport system	1.5
72	Schizophrenia screening and treatment	1.6
73	Home garden and poultry training	1.4
73	Retention ponds in Accra	1.3
75	Localized solid waste management by community members	1.1
75	Social housing construction	1.0
77	Ferries and ports on Volta	1.2
78	State sponsored alumina industry	1.1
79	Special Economic Zones	<1

\* Social, environmental and economic benefit-cost ratios (BCR) from the Ghana Priorities research papers at 8% discount rate and colored by Copenhagen Consensus Center's value-for-money categories: Phenomenal (BCR >15), Good (BCR 5 to 15), Fair (BCR 1 to 5), and Poor (BCR <1).

## Ghana Priorities research methodology

Ghana Priorities is a research and advocacy project that analyzes and promotes investments to establish how to achieve the most social, environmental and economic good for Ghana with each additional cedi spent. Ghana Priorities uses the Copenhagen Consensus Center approach, refined over the past ten years, to improve global and national spending priorities.

This project involved hundreds of sector experts, many months of research, and engagement with decision-makers on the most incisive development approaches for Ghana.

### Phase 1

Initial consultations with 10 Ghanaian “sector experts” across areas aligned to 17 SDG goals in March 2019 yielded a long list of **more than 400 interventions for further potential research**. Additional consultations with other experts and ministries in Ghana could expand this list.

In April 2019 we initiated research on policy **interventions that are self-evidently important**, consisting of the interventions which most informed policy specialists, decision makers, CSOs and politicians would agree address some of the most important challenges in Ghana’s current development landscape and/or are likely to be **effective uses of Ghana’s limited resources**.

These “self-evident” interventions were confirmed by members of the **Ghana Priorities Reference Group**, and the following criteria were used to identify them:

- Multiple “sector experts” identified the intervention as important, indicating high policy visibility;
- Comparisons against objective international benchmarks indicate that the intervention addresses a highly important development challenge in Ghana; and
- Previous research, including Copenhagen Consensus exercises, indicates these interventions are likely to be effective uses of Ghana’s limited resources.

### Phase 2

During 2019 we further engaged with sector experts across Ghana through an **additional series of sector expert consultations**. The sector experts were comprised of individuals from the government, donors, academia, NGOs, and think tanks.

These consultations created a rare opportunity to **extract an in-depth and nuanced overview of the challenges facing Ghana**. These consultations resulted in hundreds of additional policy interventions on topics ranging from health, education, and food security to clean water access, environmental preservation, climate change, and infrastructure. The ideas from these discussions were added to a pool of research topics.

The proposed interventions were then shortlisted and reviewed by an academic advisory committee, which agreed on a **final list of interventions to be researched and evaluated using cost-benefit analysis**.

### Conducting Economic Research

**Top economists from Ghana and around the world** were commissioned to undertake cost-benefit analysis on the shortlist of interventions. Assumptions were standardized to allow for comparison between different interventions.

Researchers used the standard and most recent data sets in the respective areas/themes for the analysis; Census, National Family Health Survey, Reports, and other data sets compiled by various Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDA) of Ghana.

**Feedback and peer review was embedded into the research process** to capture a broad range of expert perspectives. There was a rigorous academic peer review process, and first draft papers were also shared with sector and policy experts for their input.

The feedback was then incorporated into the final cost-benefit papers. Sector experts were also invited to provide commentaries alongside the final papers.

All papers and comments are publicly available on our website.

### Reference Group

The Ghana Priorities Reference Group has been created to provide input and guidance for the implementation of the Ghana Priorities project. The main task of the Reference Group is to provide input to the filtering process of relevant policy interventions to include in the project for the research.

Initial consultations with 10 Ghanaian “sector experts” across areas aligned to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have yielded a long list of more than 400+ interventions for further potential research, and additional consultations with other experts and ministries in Ghana has further expanded this list.

The Reference Group members were drawn from the public sector, private sector, civil society organizations, academia, the media, identifiable groups and individuals who helped to select the interventions to be researched by Ghana Priorities.

The role of the reference group was to review the 400+ interventions for Ghana that have been proposed during the consultations and indicate which interventions are top priorities for full cost-benefit research, resulting in narrowed down to a list of 80+ interventions to be researched.

### Reference Group Members

- A team at the Ministry of Planning led by Dr. Kodjo Mensah-Abrampah, Senior Technical Advisor
- A team at the Ministry of Finance led by Eva Mends, Coordinating Director (Technical)
- A team at the National Development Planning Commission led by Dr. Felix Addo-Yobo, Deputy Director (Environmental Policy)
- Prof Kwesi Botchwey, former Finance Minister and Ghana Priorities Eminent Panel member
- Prof Augustin Fosu, ISSER and Ghana Priorities Eminent Panel member
- Pe Ditundini Adiali Ayagitam II, Chief Chiana-Pio
- Nii Okwei Kinka Dowuona VI, Paramount Chief of Osu Traditional of Accra

- Rt. Rev. Samuel Osabutey, National Peace Council
- Nana Osei Bonsu, Private Enterprise Foundation
- AM Baba Alhassan, Zongo Development Fund
- Jerry Shaib, Coastal Development Authority
- Stephen Y-E Engmen, Northern Development Authority
- Joe Danquah, Middle Belt Development Authority
- Prof. Samuel Annim, Ghana Statistical Services
- Prof. Peter Quartey, University of Ghana
- Farmer A. Morrison, Chamber of Agribusiness
- C Aheto Tsegah, former Director General, Ghana Education Service
- Kobby Asmah, Daily Graphic
- Bernard Avle, Citi FM
- Thomas Ewuntomah, Ghana Immigration Services
- Kwesi Ofori, Ghana Police

### Advisory and Implementation Council

The Advisory and Implementation Council is consulted by the Ghana Priorities team throughout the project. The members of the Council are:

#### Prof. Samuel Annim

is a Ghanaian Professor of Economics with specific concentration on micro development economics and applied micro econometrics, statistician and the current, Government Statistician, Ghana Statistical Service.

#### Prof. Peter Quartey

is a Professor of Economics at the Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research (ISSER) and Head of the Department of Economics at the University of Ghana. His research interests include private sector development, development finance, monetary economics, migration and remittances, and poverty analysis.

#### Dr. Kodjo Mensah Abrampah

is currently the Director General of the National Development Planning Commission. He was the Senior Technical Adviser to the Minister for Planning in Ghana and a member of the technical team that developed the Coordinated Program of the President of Ghana (2017-2024) and currently facilitating its dissemination.

#### Dr. Felix Addo-Yobo

is Director of Policy at the National Development Planning Commission. His specialties include project Management, Urban Drainage, Flood Risk Management, Water Supply and Sanitation, Solid Waste Management, Consumer behavior, Green Economy, Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation.



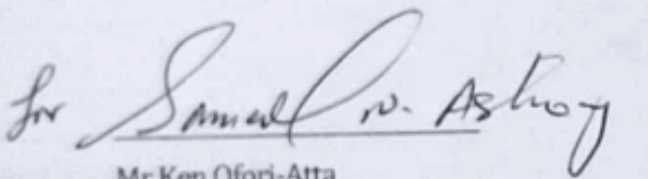
**Mr. Emmanuel Kofi Ennin**

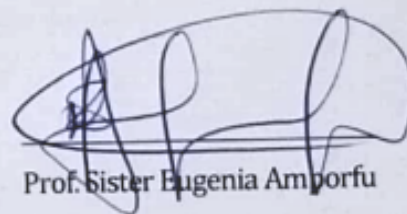
Currently a Technical Assistant to the Finance Minister of Ghana, with a primary responsibility for Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting on budget Implementation as well as Economic relations with Bilateral and Multilateral Development Partners. He is also the liaison Officer between the Minister, Cabinet and the Economic Management Team (EMT). He was previously an Assistant Manager with Standard Chartered Bank, Ghana.

**Dr. Ralph E. Nordjo**

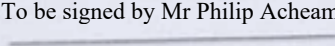
is currently with Copenhagen Consensus Center and the Project Manager of Ghana Priorities. Worked with BUSAC Fund, Improving Business Practice (IBP) and as a consultant to the Skills Development Fund. His research interests include private sector development, development finance and poverty analysis.

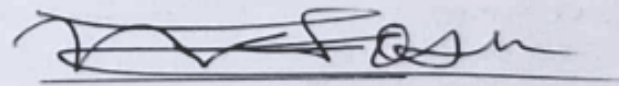
Signed:

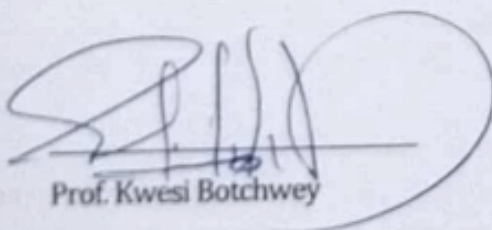
  
Mr Ken Ofori-Atta  
DR SAMUEL Mii-Moi ASHONG

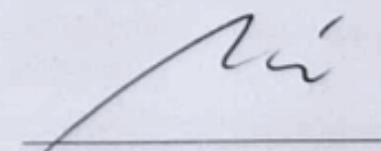
  
Prof. Sister Eugenia Amporfu

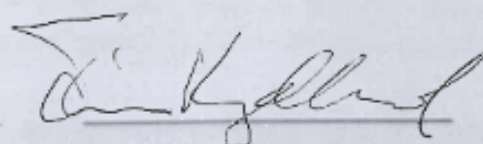
To be signed by Mr Philip Acheampong

  
Prof. George Gyan-Baffour

  
Prof. Augustin Fosu

  
Prof. Kwesi Botchwey

  
Prof. Ernest Aryeetey

  
Prof. Finn E. Kydland